



16-46

September 29, 2017

Connect2Health Task Force
Federal Communications Commission

ACCEPTED/FILED

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GN Docket No. 16-46

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Federation supports the comments submitted to the FCC by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology dated May 24, 2017 regarding GN Docket No. 16-46.

We also request that the FCC collaborate with state and county departments of health and human services to expedite phasing-in technology through strategic planning.

For example, North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services is currently completing two plans: a strategic plan for behavioral health and a plan for Medicaid transformation. Those plans are still developing and should be completed in the coming months. During the process, the department has held many listening sessions, shared preliminary documents, and has provided time for groups such as ours to meet with officials who are working on the plans.

At this point, however, we are not aware of the state including significant broadband and technology strategies in those plans. This may be due, in large part, to the uncertainty around the timeline for availability of greater broadband access and the related infrastructure and training needed to use it.

Without that type of information, the plans being completed now may be out of date before they even move to implementation. If the states knew what might be available and on what time frame, they could begin planning now so that they could work more efficiently and effectively to incorporate technology solutions as they become available.

Thank you for considering these comments.

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Respectfully submitted,

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